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AN EMERGENCY STOP SYSTEM FOR A GROUP OF MACHINE UNITS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable

THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

Not Applicable

INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.

Not Applicable

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an emergency stop system for a group of machine units, driven by energy from a source such as an electrical net, medium under pressure etc, whereas each of the machine units is provided with a cut off means for the energy feed, acted upon via a receiver by a transmitted signal, with a radio frequency, from a transmitter in a group of mobile units, provided with such, carried by one or several operators.

The invention also relates to an emergency stop system for one machine unit.

BACKGROUND ART

From GB 2 198 614 A an emergency stop system is known since long. In this publication there is disclosed an emergency stop system comprising a cut off means in the form of a primary control element, provided for instance to open a circuit breaker in the energy feed to a machine or to close a valve as a response to a remotely transmitted radio- sound- or ultrasound signal. Each operator carries a transmitter for transmitting this signal, such that the operator continuously is ready to cut off the energy feed in case of threatening situation or accident. There are further suggestions for designing emergency stop systems, especially for designing said transmitter. Emergency stop systems hitherto known lack authority identification and authorization. This means, that the machines may be started even if no mobile units are in operation.

From US 2005/0055130 a communication system for wireless control is also known. In this publication there is disclosed a portable operating unit and control unit. The portable operating unit's main purpose is to provide control of a machine but also execute an emergency stop on command or when the wireless communication is broken. This publication does not disclose or suggest, inter alia, driving means is provided not to be activated or inactivated without foregoing identifying and authorizing of the operator by IR-communication with the operators personal mobile control unit. This publication does also not disclose or suggest, inter alia, the application of such to be operated by several operators each carrying a device capable of wirelessly putting the machine unit into a safe state. This publication does also not disclose or suggest, inter alia, the operating unit

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to create an emergency stop system of the art mentioned under "TECHNICAL FIELD", admitting safe identifying and authorization of operators.

Firstly such one is characterized in that every machine unit is provided with a communication unit comprising an IR-transmitter/receiver in contact with a computer unit and each mobile unit is provided with an IR-transmitter/receiver for identifying and authorizing communication, whereas the cut off means is provided not to be activated or inactivated without foregoing identifying and authorizing IR-communication.

In one preferred embodiment the communication is arranged to continually warrant the radio communication with the identified and authorized mobile unit, whereas it is provided to emit alarm, preferably optically or acoustically when the communication is interrupted.

In one suitable embodiment, the mobile unit is provided with a display, arranged to show the status for the communications with the communications unit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to a person skilled in the art from the following detailed description in conjunction with the appended drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a machine unit, connected to a source of energy, with a communication unit, whilst Figure 2 shows a mobile unit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In figure 1 a machine unit is marked by 1, a source of energy connected to it, by 2. The feed of energy to the machine unit may be cut off by a cut off means 3. A communication unit 4 is provided connected to the machine unit. It comprises a transmitter/receiver 5 for radio- resp. IR-frequency connected to a computer unit 6. In figure 2 there is shown a mobile unit 7, also provided with a transmitter/receiver for radio- resp. IR-frequency. Radio frequency in this context for example means 433,92 MHz, whilst IR-frequency means infrared light of a frequency, that is achieved by conventional devices. The mobile unit 7 is provided with a display 8, showing the status for the communication at radio frequency between the communication unit 4 and the mobile unit 7. This is equipped with a number of push buttons 9 for the communication with the communication unit and two buttons 10, 11 for mutual emitting a signal for cutting off by the cutting off means 3. The computer unit 6 is also connected to an alarm 12, the function of which shall be described below. The requisite for starting a machine unit is that at least one operator has performed a coupling, that is to say, has established a radio contact with the machine unit in question. This is achieved in that the operator places himself relatively close to the machine unit in question and emits an IR-signal by pushing a button 9 at the mobile unit 7. Then the communication unit releases a signal to the mobile unit asking for the identity of same. Identity in this context means the personal data of one or several operators. Hereby the identity of one or several operators may be identified and authorised for the communication with one machine unit. At the display of the mobile unit the status of the communication may be read.

Control of the communication can be performed continually between a coupled mobile unit and a communication unit. If the communication should be broken the computer unit 6 will release an